



BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS
4600 Kietzke Lane. C121, Reno, Nevada 89502 775-688-2555

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
July 8, 2005

The meeting of the Board of Examiners for Social Workers was called to order by President Amy Ellwood at 9:19 a.m. at the Community College of Southern Nevada, West Charleston Campus, 6375 W. Charleston Blvd, Building 118, Las Vegas, Nevada. There was a simultaneous videoconference conducted at the University of Nevada, Reno, Student Services Building, Room 219, 1664 N. Virginia Street, Reno, Nevada which was also available to any public member who wished to observe or participate. President Ellwood noted that the meeting had been noticed properly and that the three members present constituted a quorum for the purposes of the Board meeting. A motion was made by Gil Johnstone and seconded by Anne Rhu to approve the agenda as presented.

Members Present

Amy Ellwood, LCSW President in Las Vegas
Gil Johnstone, LASW Vice-President in Reno
Anne Rhu, Public Member in Las Vegas

Members Absent

Ann Coleman, LASW (excused)
Randall Reinoso, LSW (excused)

Staff Present

Rob Bony, Deputy Attorney General in Reno
Rosalind Tuana, Executive Director in Reno

Others Present

Megan Adams, LSW Applicant, in Las Vegas
Adrianne J. Coronella, LCSW, in Reno
Aaron Grigsby, Esq., in Reno
Dixie Jeffers, LSW, in Reno

Consent Agenda

A. Licensure/Internship Applications

1. Ratification of Approved License Applications (Attachment 1)
2. Ratification of Denied License Applications (Attachment 1)
3. Ratification of Approval of Internship Applications (Attachment 1)
4. Ratification of Denied Internship Applications (Attachment 1)

B. Continuing Education

1. Ratification of Approved Continuing Education Programs
2. Ratification of Denied Continuing Education Programs

ACTION: A motion was made by Gil Johnstone and seconded by Anne Rhu to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion PASSED unanimously.

Board Operations

Approval of Minutes: June 10, 2005

The Board members reviewed the June 10, 2005 minutes. President Ellwood indicated that on page 6 under Matters related to the office management, the word revision should be changed to revising. A motion was made by Gil Johnstone and seconded by Anne Rhu to approve the Board meeting minutes as amended for the June 10, 2005. Motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Approval of YTD Financial Report

Item Tabled

Impact of Increase of Attorney General's fees on 2006 budget

The Executive Director reported that on June 21, 2005, the Board received notice from the Attorney General's office that the hourly fee for the Board assigned attorney will raise from \$91.46 an hour to \$121.94 an hour. The Board discussed the effect that the unexpected increase will have on this year's budget. President Ellwood noted that this is the second time since she has been on the Board that a dramatic increase has happened with little or no warning to the Boards. She expressed concern about the effect the increase would have on the Board's ability to carry out its legislative mandate to protect the public. After further discussion, a motion was made by Anne Rhu and seconded by Gil Johnstone to prepare a letter of concern to the Attorney General about the fee increase and copy it to Senator Townsend and Assemblywoman Buckley. Motion passed unanimously. The Executive Director was directed to prepare the letter and bring it to the next meeting for review by the Board.

Executive Director's Report

Update on Fingerprinting

The Executive Director reported that the Board began fingerprinting new applicants on July 1, 2005. So far it seems to be running smoothly. Applicants seem to accept the new requirement with very little comment. The first fingerprints have been submitted to the Highway Patrol. It is anticipated that the first reports will be coming in about four to six weeks. A bill was apparently passed in the last session that requires a person who has had disciplinary proceedings initiated against him to submit fingerprints to the Board for submission.

Matters related to the office management

The Executive Director indicated that she had no items to report on under this agenda item.

Personnel Matters

The Executive Director reported that they had hired a part time administrative assistant to work 17 or 18 hours a week while the workload is reviewed to see if we need to hire a permanent half-time position or a full time position. She noted that the program assistant who retired in June has also indicated that she would be willing to come back to help cover vacations and peak times. This arrangement seems to be working well and is saving the Board money currently.

Next Meeting Date and Review Meeting Schedule through December, 2005.

The Executive Director noted that there had been some confusion about the meeting schedule. Accordingly this item was placed on the agenda at President Ellwood's suggestion to clarify the remaining date for the rest of the year.

Licensure, Intern, and Application Issues

Megan Adams, Application Social Worker License Appearance

Ms. Adams appeared at 9:20 a.m. before the Board because she answered "yes" to question 2 on the application. At the request of President Ellwood, the Executive Director briefly described the reasons Ms. Adams was appearing. She noted that Ms. Adams had been very cooperative and had submitted all the required documentation in a timely manner. Ms. Adams gave a brief presentation to the Board and answered various questions from the Board.

members. Ms. Adams was commended by the Board for taking responsibility for her actions and for completing her master's degree in social work this year. A motion was made by Anne Rhu and seconded by Gil Johnstone to approve to grant her approval to take the examination. Upon a satisfactory score on the examination, Ms. Adams may be granted a permanent license. Motion passed unanimously.

Amy Badolato, Social Worker 4455-S

Item tabled until the next meeting.

Disciplinary Matters

Consideration and Discussion, and Action of Consent Decrees

Adrianne J. Coronella, LCSW 2275-C Case G05-05 Rob Bony, Counsel to the Board in this matter noted that Ms Coronella was present with Aaron Grigsby, her attorney. Mr. Bony presented the consent decree to the Board. Ms. Coronella answered various questions from the Board.

The decree stipulated to the following violations:

1. A violation of NRS 641B.205(13) which states that a licensee shall not solicit or enter into a dual relationship with a client, intern or person who is supervised by the licensee within 2 years after the termination of the professional relationship, internship or period of supervision.
2. A violation of NRS 641B.200(6) which states that a licensee is responsible for setting and maintaining professional boundaries with clients, interns, and persons supervised by the licensee.
3. The foregoing facts constitute grounds for initiating disciplinary action pursuant to NRS 641B.400.

The stipulated adjudication is as follows:

1. The Board will suspend respondent's license to practice social work for two (2) years. Respondent agrees to serve five (5) months of this suspension. After serving 5 months of the suspension, the suspension will be stayed and respondent will be placed on probation for the remaining 19 months. During this two year disciplinary period respondent agrees to comply with the following conditions:
 - A. Respondent shall maintain her license number LCSW 2755-C-S during the probationary period.
 - B. Within ninety days of the approval and execution of this Consent Decree, respondent shall pay the Board one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) in legal and investigative fees.
 - C. The period of suspension shall commence upon execution of this Consent Decree by the presiding office of the Board. After the consent decree has been in effect for a minimum two-year period, respondent may apply for relief from probation to the Board. Upon application for relief from probation, respondent agrees to meet with the President of the Board or his/her designee, the Executive Director and Board counsel and prove compliance with the Consent Decree. During the term of probation, respondent agrees to comply with the following terms and conditions:
 1. Within 45 days of the effective date of the consent decree, must complete a psychological evaluation showing fitness to practice social work. The forensic psychologist must be approved by the Board. A report from the psychologist showing the respondent is fit to practice social work must be filed by with the Board within 90 days of the effective date of this Consent Decree. Respondent agrees to comply with any and all recommendation of the psychologist
 2. Must obey all federal, state, and local laws, insurance company policies or contract and orders of the Board, which are not inconsistent with this Consent Decree, pertaining to the practice of social work in this state. Any and all violations must be reported by respondent in writing within 72 hours. .
 3. Must notify Board within 72 hours of any change in social work employment, including self employment, consulting or volunteering. Any notification of termination shall contain a full explanation of the circumstance surrounding it. .
 4. Must notify her current employer and any future employer of this Consent Decree while the Consent Decree is in force.
 5. Shall meet monthly with a Board approved licensed clinical social worker who will consult with respondent. During this period of consultation, respondent will write, and the

consultant will sign, quarterly reports that must be submitted to the Board regarding respondents counseling sessions. The consultant shall be independent, with no prior business, professional or personal relationship with respondent. Issues to be discussed in the monthly meeting and addressed in the report to the Board must include boundaries and dual relationships; professional responsibilities to clients and staff; and use and misuse of power in client and staff relationships.

6. Must attend at least six hours of continuing education pre-approved by the Board on the issues of boundaries, dual relationships, and ethics and upon completion, submit a report to the Board regarding how the education impacted respondent.
 7. After serving her 5 month suspension, respondent agrees that she shall engage in the independent practice of clinical social work for the next 12 months. During this timeframe, she may only engage in the clinical practice of social work in an agency setting. .
 8. Respondent agrees not to have any contact with Client MM while consent decree is in effect
- D. Respondent agrees that she will be financially responsible for all requirements of the consent decree, including the cost of the Board approved consultant and any reasonable financial assessments by the Board for the cost of monitoring here compliance or carrying out the provisions of this Consent Decree.

After further discussion on the consent decree, a motion was made by Anne Rhu and seconded by Gil Johnstone to accept the consent decree as presented in the matter of Adrianne J. Coronella, LCSW, 2755-C, Case G05-05.. Motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation to Dismiss Case G04-15

Recommendation to dismiss Case G04-15 The Executive Director recommended the Board dismiss case G04-15 because there was insufficient evidence of violations of NRS 641B or NAC 641B. A motion was made by Anne Rhu and seconded by Gil Johnstone to dismiss case G04-15 because there was insufficient evidence of a violation of NRS 641B or NAC 641B. Motion passed unanimously.

Disciplinary Report

The Executive Director reviewed the disciplinary report with the Board. She noted that there are only 16 cases on left on list after the actions taken today on the disciplinary cases have been removed. She noted the Board may have a disciplinary hearing in October. Negotiations for consent decrees are not going as well as expected.

Licensure, Intern, and Application Issues –Cont.

Dixie Jeffers, Social Worker 2219-S

Ms. Jeffers appeared at 10:05 a.m. before the Board because she answered “yes” to question 3 on the her renewal form.. At the request of President Ellwood, the Executive Director briefly described the reasons Ms. Jeffers was appearing. She noted that Ms. Jeffers had been very cooperative and had submitted all the required documentation. Ms. Jeffers gave a brief presentation to the Board and answered various questions from the Board members including how she would avoid a similar situation in the future. After further discussion, a motion was made by Gil Johnstone and seconded by Ann Rhu to approve to her application for renewal. Motion passed unanimously.

Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) and National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

Request by ASWB for member contact information

The Executive Director reported that ASWB had requested member contact information in order to send mailings to the Board members. She noted the staff would like to know which address, if any, to provide to ASWB for the mailings. Another possible option for the Board members is to have the mailing sent to the Board office for distribution. After discussion, a motion was made by Gil Johnstone and seconded by Anne Rhu to have the material for the Board members sent directly to the Board office. Motion passed unanimously.

Presiding Officer's Report

President Ellwood indicated that she will be on vacation later this month. She had no other matters to discuss with the Board at this time.

Deputy Attorney General Report

Rob Bony indicated that Brian Sandoval, Attorney General, had received the letter from the Board. Mr. Sandoval contacted Rob to commend him.

Public Comment

There was no additional public comment.

Adjournment

ACTION: A motion was made by Gil Johnstone and seconded by Anne Rhu to adjourn the meeting at 10.35 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully prepared by

Rosalind Tuana
Executive Director